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AD/ER

9 July 1957

Acting Ch/G/ER

Comments on Transfer of Map Library Division to GCR

It is understood that the Panel of Consultants which surveyed CIA Library facilities this spring has recommended to the DG/I that the Map Library Division be transferred from GCR to GCR. After discussions with the Chief, Map Library Division, the following comments are set down as a basis for GCR discussion on the matter and the preparation, when and as appropriate, of the formal statement of GCR non-concurrence in such a transfer.

1. Basis for Panel Recommendation. The Panel would appear to base its recommendation on the argument that repositories belong with each other, not with operating units. However, the Panel members at no time discussed with operating officials the pros and cons of the location of the Library in GCR, nor did they investigate the substantive problems which would develop should the Library be transferred to another Office.

2. Precedents

a. It is a basic principle in government that map library facilities are organizationally associated with the map-producing and geographic research components of the agency concerned. The Army Map Service, Navy Hydrographic Office, Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, Geological Survey, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Board on Geographic Names combine their map libraries with the geographic and/or map-producing components of the organization concerned and not with central reference services. In the case of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the reference services have been specifically reorganized in recent years to remove the map library from the central library and associate it directly with the research and analysis activity. The only map library in the government that is attached to a central reference unit is located in the Library of Congress, where there is no map-producing or geographic research activity.

b. The validity of the above principle as it applies to GCR's Map Library Division has been tested and proven from the inception of the unit. The Library first developed in 1942 as a working component, staffed by geographers, of a larger geographic organization in the Office of Strategic Services. It was continued as such by the Department of State following

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State's absorption of that portion of OSS in 1945. In 1948, following the transfer of geographic research to CIA, a management review concluded specifically that the Map Library Division (then Branch) should not be placed in OGR but should remain as an integral component of the geographic research activity.

3. Basis for Location in OGR

a. The Map Library continues to be an integral working component of the Geographic Research Area. Professional personnel of the Geography, Cartography, and Photo Intelligence Divisions work directly with the Map Library personnel in the selection and development of CIA procurement priorities, selection of materials for permanent file, technical direction of reporting, development of leads for procurement and reporting, determination of reproduction requirements and methods, and approval of substantive policy. The Map Library Division, in turn, functions as the organ of dissemination for maps produced by the Cartography Division;

and consults with all Divisions on mapping evaluations accomplished for other components of CIA and the intelligence community. These relationships are not only in addition to but organically support the map reference function performed for CIA in general. They require a close organizational association of the geographic divisions for their success.

b. Administratively, the map reference function benefits by being grouped with other geographic activities. Because its functions naturally require heavy utilization of trained geographers, professionally-suitable personnel and project assistance are available to the Map Library for loan on short notice without administrative complication. The handling, logging, and controlling of materials and correspondence associated with the foreign and domestic procurement programs is accomplished by the Information Control Section of Ch/G as an integral part of its over-all coordination of geographic intelligence flow.

c. The direction and programming of geographic research necessitates that higher supervisors have equal control over the functions of geographic reporting, cartographic production, and map reference. The functions are mutually supporting; management-wise, they form a unity. To the degree that the components are separated their individual capabilities and potential are weakened and the geographic research function handicapped.

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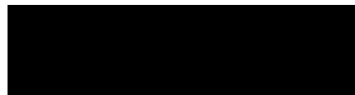
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4. Effects of Transfer. The objectives of the Panel in recommending transfer thus do not conform with reality. Whether in terms of administration, supervision, or working-level effectiveness, the transfer of the Map Library to OCR would harm rather than benefit the Agency. It would severely disrupt the performance of geographic research and misplace the map reference function in a component to which it bears only a mechanical similarity. Even the advantage of central location depends not on organizational relationship to OCR but on completion of the new CIA building. The channels through which Map Library services are presently extended to and coordinated with other elements of the Agency and the intelligence community--Economic Area, OCI, OSI, OGI, OO, Central Library, Industrial Register, Graphics Register, DD/P, Army Map Service, Department of State, and other appropriate organizations--are long tested and function well. The effect of the Panel's recommendation would be to dismantle a sound working system ~~on the single basis of appearance.~~

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*offhand
present
coord. with
OCR.
Recognize OCR's
responsibility.*

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